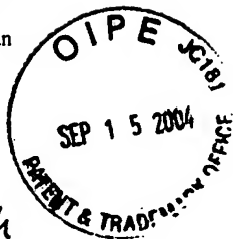


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Services as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Attorney for Applicant

Date: 13 September 2004



1PW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/706,548
Applicant(s): Philip H. Spano et al
Filed: November 12, 2003
Title: METHOD OF OPERATING A DISPENSING CABINET
Art Unit: 3653
Examiner: Michael E. Butler

Docket No.: DB000972-001

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

To: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed on 11 June 2004 for the above-captioned application, enclosed is the following:

- Response and Amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0888. A copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.

A return postcard is also enclosed. Please date stamp and mail the postcard in order to acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward L. Pencoske

Reg. No. 29,688

THORP, REED & ARMSTRONG

One Oxford Centre, 14th Fl.

301 Grant St.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1425

(412) 394-7789

Attorneys for Applicant

Dated: September 13, 2004

Appl. No.: 10/706,548
Docket No.: DB000972-001
Amdt. Dated: September 13, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 11, 2004



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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

In response to the Office action dated 11 June 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification: None

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings: None

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.